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Family Hunting Territories and Social Life of Various Algonkian Bands of the Ottawa Valley. F. G. SPECK. (Memoir 70, No. 8, Anthropological Series of the Publications of the Geological Survey of Canada.) Ottawa, 1915.

Myths and Folk-lore of the Timiskaming Algonquin and Timagami Ojibwa. F. G. SPECK. (Memoir 71, No. 9, Anthropological Series of the Publications of the Geological Survey of Canada.) Ottawa, 1915.

I am sure all American ethnologists are glad to see that the eastern part of Canada and America is at last receiving the attention of field investigators. That the ethnological department of the Geological Survey of Canada realizes the importance of this area is shown by the fact, that six of the nine memoirs, so far published, deal with either the Eastern Algonkin or Iroquois. To Dr. Speck more than any other investigator we owe our recent knowledge of this region, for he has already published four memoirs on the Eastern Algonkin and has another ready for press; not to speak of his work on the Penobscot, which I suppose we may hope to see in the near future.

In the first of these memoirs under discussion Dr. Speck describes the Hunting Territories and Social Life of the Bands of the Ottawa Valley. It is not worth discussing the ethnology and inter-tribal relations, which Dr. Speck treats in the first two sections for he says that he is "trying to prepare" a paper on that subject. On pages four to eight Dr. Speck deals with hunting territories of the Timiskaming Indians. It is evident that Dr. Speck realizes the "sketchiness" of this part of the paper for he says that his information about the Timiskaming band is not of so high a grade as that secured from the Timagami band. His treatment of marriage is perhaps more inadequate than his treatment of the other aspects of their social life. In fact his whole treatment of the Timiskaming band is little more than an attempt to enumerate the hunting territories of this region, and his table would be of considerably more value if he gave the number of members of each family. His treatment of the Dumoine River and Kipawa bands is too inadequate to bear criticism.

In Chapter III Dr. Speck describes the hunting territories and social life of the Timagami band of Ojibwa. His data on the hunting territories is a real contribution to knowledge and he seems to have planned and carried out his investigation on this topic with care. He probably thought that it would not be necessary to enter into details concerning the clans and totems of this people, since they are a division of the Ojibwa, nevertheless a more extensive account of these topics as well as of "wisana"

would have been desirable. On the whole it would have been better if Dr. Speck had not dispersed his energies so much but had treated more carefully one or two topics—for example, the kinship system and hunting territories—for it seems almost impossible to treat the social organization of these tribes in twenty-nine pages.

Of the second Memoir under discussion the first twenty-nine pages are devoted to the myths and folklore of the Timiskaming Algonquin, and the remaining fifty-eight pages to the myths and folklore of the Timagami Ojibwa. They are a substantial contribution to the general folklore of the region, but the collection is too small to solve many problems. Dr. Speck's style is not always lucid and his meaning is not always clear, as, for example, when he speaks of "the men and women in no particular order, forming a large circle, with their leader at their head." However, it is not worth while enumerating slips of this sort, which, as we all know, are very easy to make when writing in haste.

WM. HUBBS-MECHLING

Composition of California Shellmounds. EDWARD WINSLOW GIFFORD.

(University of California Publications in American Archaeology and Ethnology, vol. 12, no. 1, February 24, 1916.) 29 pp., map.

At the present time any contribution to archeological method is of appreciable value. Mr. Gifford's suggestive treatment of the California shellmounds by a mechanical analysis has brought forth results bearing directly on the constituents of the mounds, the proportion of these constituents at various depths in the mounds, and inferentially the circumstances of shellmound growth and their age. With a full appreciation of the difficulties that beset such inferences, we have ventured to review those which appear not to have been adequately controlled by a full use of the data.

The data resulting from the mechanical analysis are presented in the first section of this paper. These represent the constituents of the mounds—vertebrate and shell remains, inorganic matter, and the products of combustion—in percentages by weight of the total mound content and percentages of each constituent for each interval of depth. A further analysis of the shell content gives an expression for each mound of the proportions of each molluscan species therein and the percentage composition according to depth for certain species.

The relative proportions of the molluscan species in the total content of the mounds should serve as an index of the environment of the mounds during the period of growth, provided we assume the same ratio of their